Calendar No. 590

82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 628

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AUG 15 1951
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PREVENTING THE ENTRY OF CERTAIN MOLLUSKS INTO THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9 (legislative day AUGUST 1), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ELLENDER, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1489]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1489) to prevent the entry of certain mollusks into the United States, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe regulations governing the entry of baggage, salvaged war materials, and other goods entering the United States from areas infested with any terrestrial or fresh-water mollusks. The legislation is designed particularly to prevent the entry of living giant African snails which are very destructive to agriculture. The bill and the problems involved are explained in a favorable report from the Department of Agriculture, a copy of which is attached as a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, July 3, 1951.

Hon. ALLEN J. ELLENDER,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR ELLENDER: This is in reply to your request of May 21, 1951, for a report on S. 1489, a bill to prevent the entry of certain mollusks into the United States. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe regulations which would govern the entry of baggage, salvaged war materials, and other goods entering the United States from areas infested with any terrestrial or fresh-water mollusk.

The need for such regulations has been repeatedly demonstrated during recent years by the arrival at several ports of entry of living giant African snails associated with salvaged war materials. This destructive snail is not known to be established in the continental United States, and it is highly desirable that legal authorization be made available to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to take appropriate steps to prevent the introduction and establishment of snails which

may affect American agriculture. In the absence of the desired authority, it has been necessary for the plant quarantine inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of this Department to seek the voluntary cooperation of the importers in surrounding such shipments with safeguards designed to prevent the entry of snails associated with the materials mentioned above.

It is not believed that the enactment of the proposed legislation would necessitate additional appropriations.

A study is now being made by the Interdepartmental Committee on Pest Control of proposed legislation which would encompass a much wider field than is covered in S. 1489. This proposed legislation will probably include provisions for control of such plant pests as worms, insects, nematodes, slugs, and snails, any form of protozoa, fungi, bacteria, or other living parasitic plants, any living viruses, and similar or allied organisms, which can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease in plants or parts thereof. It will require considerable time to complete the studies which are being made with respect to such legislation, and pending the preparation and enactment of such legislation, S. 1489 would serve a useful purpose.

This Department recommends that S. 1489 be passed.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

CHARLES F. BRANNAN, *Secretary*.

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